

**REMARKS**

1. The Office Action has rejected Claim 1 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4,667,448 (Smith). The Office Action states that Smith discloses a rain gutter having an integral leaf guard extending from the rear wall and terminating in an attachment lip proximate to the upper lip, and a connecting member that engages the attachment lip. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendments to dependent Claim 2 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 1, thus rendering Claim 2 into an independent claim. As noted below, the Office Action has indicated that Claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 2 should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments made above, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. The Office Action has objected to Claims 2 - 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims were indicated as being allowable if placed into independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to Claim 2 above places this claim into independent form and is in condition, therefore, for allowance. The remaining dependent Claims 3 - 7 have been retained in their dependent form depending from amended independent Claim 2 and should be allowable therewith. Claim 1 has been canceled from the application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The Office Action has allowed Claims 8 - 18. Applicant appreciates this allowance of Claims 8 - 18 and respectfully requests that these claims be passed to allowance with the other claims remaining in this application.

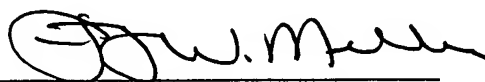
4. In summary, Claim 2 has been amended, Claim 1 has been canceled, and Claims 2 - 18 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable based on the

foregoing amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections and objections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the undersigned attorney if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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